
FOR THE RECORD

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Ministry of Education

THE FACTS ABOUT DECLINING ENROLMENT IN B.C. SCHOOLS

VICTORIA – Here are the facts on student demographics in British Columbia.

- Enrolment in B.C. has declined by about 42,500 students since 2000-01 and is projected to decline by another 30,000 students over the next five years.
- This year, enrolment declined by about 12,300 students – the largest single decrease ever.
- As a result of fewer students, 139 schools have closed between June 2001 and June 2006.
- Declining enrolment is occurring in jurisdictions around the world and is expected to continue in B.C. until 2015.
- Government continues to build new schools and expand existing schools where there is need.
- Since 2001, government has spent more than \$1 billion on 26 new schools, 31 replacement schools, 140 additions and 30 renovations.
- For example, six new schools opened and 14 schools received additions in the Surrey school district, where student enrolment has increased by 3,593 students since 2001-02.
- By the end of 2008-09 government will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across B.C.
- Government is also investing \$1.5 billion over 15 years to seismically upgrade about 700 public schools in 37 districts.
- Since 2000-01, the Province has also increased funding to B.C. public schools by nearly \$958 million: \$551 million in operating grants and \$407 million in one-time grants - a 26 per cent increase.

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